Appl. No. 09/882,527
Amdt. dated September 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 22, 2004

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1-10, 14, 16 and 17 have been amended. No claim has been added or canceled.

Claims 6-9 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 1, 6, and 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,539,441. Claims 6, 9, and 17 have been amended in response to the rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Grooters. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for allowing multiple client application programs to communicate with a single input device. A control instance is generated for each client application program seeking to access the single input device, so that a plurality of application programs may access the same input device.

On the other hand, Grooters discloses a video multiplexer 260 that regulates the access to the video overlay device 258. An application that is made to be visible to a user is allowed to access the video overlay device (col. 5:37-51). That is, if a first application is minimized and a second application is made visible to the user, the video multiplexer allows the second application to gain access to the video overlay device and terminates the first application's access to the video overlay device.

Accordingly, Grooters does not disclose "associating a single input device instance to said single input device upon creating said single input device instance according to said input device control program; generating a first control instance in response to said first request, said first control instance being associated with said first application program; associating said first control instance to said single input device instance, so that said first application program can access said single input device using said association between said first control instance and said single input device instance; generating a second control instance in response a second request received from a second application program requesting access to said single input device; and associating said second control instance to said single input device instance, so that said second application program can access said single input device using said

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association between said second control instance and said single input device instance." Claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 10 recites, "code for associating a single input device instance to said single input device upon creating said single input device instance according to said input device control program; code for generating a first control instance in response to said first request, said first control instance being associated with said first application program; code for associating said first control instance to said single input device instance, so that said first application program can access said single input device using said association between said first control instance and said single input device instance; code for generating a second control instance in response a second access request received from a second application program requesting access to said single input device; and code for associating said second control instance to said single input device instance, so that said second application program can access said single input device using said association between said second control instance and said single input device instance." Grooters does not disclose these features. Claim 10 is allowable.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grooters. Applicants traverse the rejection. Claim 4 depends from claim 1 and is allowable at least for this reason.

Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grooters in view of Microsoft (Appendix B). Applicants traverse the rejection. Claims 15 and 15 depend from claim 10 and are allowable at least for this reason.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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